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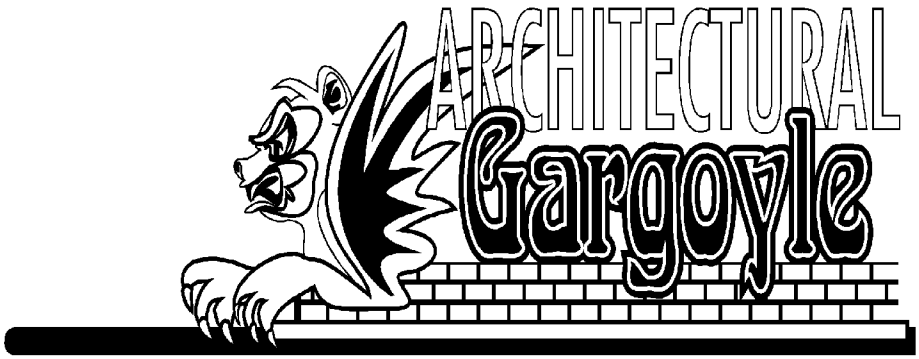
Headquarters

AN INFORMAL PUBLICATION



The ***Gargoyle*** is an informal news publication issued by the Architectural and Planning Branch (CEMP-EA), HQUSACE, for architects, interior designers, and landscape architects throughout USACE. This is the **August 1997** edition. We ask that this information be **widely distributed in your area.**

Gargoyle Basics

● **The *Gargoyle* is distributed by e-mail** to the addressees we have on our list of USACE Architectural Points of Contact. Please let us know if your address changes to help us keep you in the loop. Your **comments, recommendations, and questions about individual *Gargoyle* topics** may be directed to the points of contact (POC) provided with each article. E-mail addresses and phone numbers for HQUSACE contributors are provided at the end of each edition. We also welcome your contributions. **Information and news of interest to, or about, USACE architects, interior designers, or landscape architects should be e-mailed to Rick Dahnke.** Past and present ***Gargoyles*** are available from the World Wide Web (WWW) via **our Branch Home Page at *http://www.hq.usace.army.mil/cemp/e/ea/cemp_ea.htm*.** Web site references not included in individual articles are provided at the end of each ***Gargoyle*** edition under the heading *Important Web Sites.*

Current Events

● **1998 Chief of Engineers Design and Environmental Awards Program.** As an ongoing reminder, the instructions for this 1998 awards program and a color brochure of the 1996 program winners are available through the WWW at *http://www.hq. usace.army.mil/cemp/e/ea/awd/awndx.htm*. **Submissions for the 1998 program are due no later than COB on Friday, 30 January 1998.**

● **1998 U.S. Air Force Design Awards Program.** The Air Force has issued a submittal guide throughout their department for this 1988 awards program. All entries must be submitted through Air Force channels. The entry deadline is 14 November 1997. Types of entries include Planning Studies and Design Guides, Housing Community Plans, Concept Designs, Interior Designs, Landscape Designs, Facility Designs, and Family Housing.

● **Contact Dale Moeller for additional information.**

News Around the Corps

● **A New England District project** to restore the Commander's Quarters at Watertown Arsenal, Watertown, MA, **was awarded the *1997 Preservation Award* from the Massachusetts Historical Commission.** The honor was presented on 22 May 1997 at a ceremony at the State House in Boston, MA, and was one of 12 awards given this year by the Commission.

The Commander's Quarters is a two-story Italianate brick structure that was built in 1865. The 132-year-old residence is listed on the National Register of Historical Places. **The restoration project was designed in February 1996 by New England District architect Chiway Hsiung, AIA.**

Congratulations to Chiway and to the New England District!

● **Historic Landscapes. The Presidential Memorandum on *Environmentally and Economically Beneficial Practices on Federal Landscaped Grounds*,** available in the Federal Register, Vol 60, No. 154, Thursday, August 10, 1995, and supported by OUSD memorandum dated 23 September 1994, discusses the need to implement practical and cost-effective methods to preserve and protect Federal landscaped grounds that have been entrusted to us. The U.S. Army recognizes this need as an integral component of cultural resource management on Army installations. The National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) of 1966, as amended, defines cultural resources as buildings, structures, sites, objects, districts, landscapes, archeological sites, and traditional cultural properties and archival resources.

To assist cultural resource managers, CECERL has developed a Landscape Program. This program researches cost-effective methods for completing Historic Landscape Inventories and provides a Historic Landscape Management Plan for Army installations. The landscape inventories follow the process set forth in the Army Technical Report, *Guidelines for Documenting and Evaluating Historic Military Landscape: An Integrated Landscape Approach* (1996), developed by CECERL.

The purpose of the Historic Landscape Inventory is to identify historic landscape areas, determine the historic significance, periods of significance, character, and contributing/non-contributing features. The Historic Landscape Management Plan is intended to provide treatment recommendations for preserving and/or restoring historic landscape character, enhancing the military image, and for improving the quality of life.

CECERL recently completed a Historic Landscape Inventory and Management Master Plan for Fort Sam Houston, TX. Within the first nine months of the project's completion, the landscape master plan was approved and signed by the commanding officer as installation policy. The landscape master plan was awarded the Texas Historical Commission's ***Award of Excellence in Historic Architecture.*** The landscape team is in the process of completing a Historic Landscape Inventory and Historic Landscape Management Plan for the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, NY; Fort Myer, VA; and Fort Bliss, TX. All projects are collaborative efforts between CECERL and the University of Illinois Department of Landscape Architecture.

● **For additional information, please contact Suzanne Keith Loechl, Landscape Architect, phone (800) USACERL, x7397; e-mail *s-loechl@cecer.army.mil*.**

● **Green Neighborhood/Cool Communities Research. CECERL has also developed a Model Energy Installation Program (MEIP)** that includes the design and construction of green neighborhood/cool communities (GN/CC) for military family housing. This process seeks to improve occupant satisfaction with housing, provide true life-cycle cost-efficient designs, promote energy efficiency, and minimize the environmental impacts of housing construction and operation. The project develops a prototypical family housing neighborhood that meets the daily needs of the military family. The objectives include improving the quality of life of resident populations; reducing negative environmental impacts and social costs; developing obtainable energy and resource conservation strategies; incorporating effective life-cycle costing strategies; and advancing a "green" approach that can compete with cost-driven budgets.

A 150-unit family housing project at Ft Hood, TX was chosen for the model. The products include an area development plan and a cost analysis. The green neighborhood concept integrates xeriscape and open space re-forestation principles with strategic tree placement to provide energy savings measures. By providing shade in appropriate areas, cooling costs are projected to be reduced by nearly 40 percent. Low-maintenance material selection benefits life-cycle maintenance costs.

The next phase of the research will focus on quantifying military housing residents' needs and perceptions of quality. The landscape team is in the process of completing a GN/CC model for the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, NY. All projects are collaborative efforts between CECERL and the University of Illinois Department of Landscape Architecture.

● **For additional information, please contact Brian Deal, Architect, phone (800) USACERL, e-mail *b-deal@cecer.army.mil*.**

DA Facilities Standardization Program

●**The USACE Facilities Standardization Committee** met 20-21 August 1997 in Washington, DC. Major items of

discussion included the activity of current DA standards, the Barracks Upgrade Program (BUP) initiative, and the lessons-learned feedback system. A review of the MILCON program for FY 00 and beyond indicated that the barracks, battalion headquarters, company operations, and the dining facility standards will be the most active. Other standards such as child development centers and military entrance processing centers will also be active.

The discussion on the BUP involved implementation of the standards developed and the ability to deviate from the them, i.e., the LBC&W and BB&A standards. MACOM are voicing concern about these BUP standards in terms of space allocation and amenities.

The lessons-learned feedback system for DA standard designs needs to be reassessed. The committee is considering a joint meeting with the Centers of Standardization (COS) to discuss how this process can be improved. Three presentations were made to the committee. The first was on concepts of modular design in English and metric construction. The committee will provide input regarding a metric modular design grid for DA standard designs.

The second presentation was on the status of the Modular Design System (MDS). MDS is a software program developed for the Army Reserve/National Guard MILCON program. The committee will look at MDS as a possible source for developing and/or revising DA standard designs.

The third presentation was on the Computer Aided Design (CAD) library. The Waterways Experiment Station (WES), working with selected COS, is in the process of "shelving" the library with DA standard design packages. Access to the library will be by electronic media. In addition to the DA standard design packages, completed project documents based on DA standard designs will be loaded into the library.

- **Additional information on these issues may be obtained from Al Young.**

Installation Support

- **The June 1997 edition of *Buildings, The Facilities Construction and Management Magazine*,** contained the results of a reader survey conducted by the magazine about where facility managers plan to spend renovation money in 1997. Responses indicated that 90 percent were currently involved in a renovation project, and 72 percent were planning or executing new construction. Although six major reasons for modernization were indicated, reducing operating costs was first with 58 percent. The bar chart in the article indicated 53 areas where renovation money would be spent. The bar chart, in indicating where money would be spent, also indicated that the design disciplines need to support building renovation. Of the 53 areas listed, 11 related to interior design, 14 related to architecture, 2 related to landscape architecture, and the remaining 26 related to engineering support disciplines, including electrical, mechanical, plumbing, communications and security systems, pest control, and fire protection.

The areas where over 80 percent of the facility managers were planning work included security systems (86 percent), lamp replacement (84 percent), and carpeting (81 percent). The distribution of this work indicates the type of design resources needed to service installation support requirements for the Army and other customers. Many installation support projects involve a renovation to improve productivity or achieve better operational value. Although engineering is a significant component of many of these projects, architects and interior designers are needed to establish the scope and design program for these renovations before an effective team can execute the work.

- **For additional information, contact Frank Norcross.**

The Barracks Upgrade Program (BUP)

- Mr. Marty Kleinmen, FORSCOM, requested USACE assistance in developing a BB&A standard design that will be used at Forts Carson, Riley, and Irvin. At the request of FORSCOM, Omaha District is taking the lead in developing this design since Fort Carson has most of the FORSCOM BB&A barracks facilities to be upgraded. FORSCOM intends to fund these designs with FY 97 FORSCOM O&MA dollars and will even try to reimburse the districts who attended the initial meeting that was held at Fort Riley on 19 August 1997. The existing Ft. Worth standard BUP design for BB&A type barracks is being corrected for a few technical issues and will be issued as an option for those installations and districts that might want to us it.

The Ft. Worth District (CESWF) performed a Value Engineering (VE) study on the standard design package for the upgrade of BB&A (Benham, Blair & Affiliates) type barracks in July. CESWF has completed the report of the VE study and HQUSACE has completed the review. We

anticipate having the final report to the districts by September. The final report of the VE study on the standard design package for the upgrade of LBC&W (Lyles, Bissett, Carlisle & Wolfe) type barracks was issued to the districts in April of this year.

Awards to date include 12 projects in Korea ($8M), six buildings and five roofing projects at Ft Bragg ($15M), six buildings in Germany ($20M), four at Ft Lewis($13M), and four buildings at Ft Hood ($10.5M).

- **Contact Stan Swofford for additional information.**

Historic Preservation

●**Historic Structures, Craft Skills Training, PROSPECT 163**. The additional registration period for PROSPECT #163, scheduled for Fort Sam Houston, San Antonio, TX, on 9-13 February 1998, did not generate enough reservations to cover the cost of the course presentation. As a result, the FY 98 session is canceled and will be rescheduled in FY 99.

●**Historic Structures, Maintenance and Repair, PROSPECT 392,** will still be offered in Seattle, WA, 16- 20 March 1998, at a tuition $1,120. At present, 35 people are registered. Additional registrants are still needed to make the course financially self-sufficient. This course is vital to the development of installation support skills needed to plan, program, manage, design, and construct projects involving historic structures and buildings. Please contact the CEHNC Registrar for reservations at (205) 895-7420, facsimile (205) 895-7469, for reservations.

●**For additional information on historic preservation issues, please contact Frank Norcross.**

Interior Design News

- **Pre-wired Workstations in Military Construction.** Requests for information have been coming in on how USACE will work with UNICOR since our treatment of pre-wired workstations as being part of construction was overturned by the Army staff to save the BRAC project for service school relocation to Fort Leonard Wood, MO. MG Hunter signed a policy memorandum on 11 August 1997, which provided guidance. The memorandum was fully coordinated through HQUSACE staff and with Janet Conner at UNICOR. USACE interior designers and USACE Standardization Committee members have copies. It is, however, stamped DRAFT because of subsequent developments.

USACE recently received a memorandum, dated 3 July 1997, from Acting Deputy Attorney General, Seth Waxman, to the Secretary of the Army. The Department of Justice (DOJ) memorandum makes the following four points. The MG Hunter memorandum is in conflict with the second point below:

- DOJ indicates that structural building items are on the Schedule of Products and that they should not be considered exempt from the UNICOR mandatory preference.
- DOJ does not want us to solicit price proposals (contract options) prior to obtaining a waiver.
- DOJ believes that whole-room (UEPH) packages, now shown on GSA schedules, are a means of circumventing UNICOR's mandatory preference.
- DOJ takes issue with the exemption from mandatory preference for items used overseas.

The official version of the MG Hunter memorandum will likely not be released until the Secretary of the Army responds to the DoJ memorandum. **For copies of either memorandum, or for additional information on the above interior design issues, please contact Frank Norcross.**

Millimeter (mm) News

- A complaint concerning the use of metric concrete masonry units (CMU) for the Fort Carson Child Development Center project was received by the USACE Metric Ombudsman, i.e., the Office of the Principle Assistant Responsible for Contracting (PARC). The protest by Colorado Concrete Mfg. Co. alleged that metric CMU is not a commercially available item and that the project specifications were unnecessarily restrictive based on the requirements for CMU. In accordance with the new metric law, P.L. 104-289, *Savings in Construction Act of 1996*, a prospective supplier can file a complaint to the agency Metric Ombudsman.

The USACE Metric Ombudsman did not find the masonry specification to be unduly restrictive as it offered the contractor the choice of using either metric or inch-pound

CMU in accordance with the provisions of the metric law, and the decision as to which type to use remained with the contractor/bidder. In addition, our Metric Ombudsman noted that the metric CMU usage for the project was not a violation of full and open competition as the other block manufacturers in the area were able to supply the metric blocks. Previously, a similar bid protest by the same company was summarily dismissed by the General Accounting Office (GAO).

However, designers should ensure that the CMU substitution provisions are realistic and not unduly restrictive in a project specific situation. If we fail to do this, we could be subjected to future protests from the CMU manufacturers. Revisions to several Corps of Engineers Guide Specifications (CEGS), including the masonry CEGS, are being made to clarify how a contractor can use either metric or inch-pound CMU in metric projects without compromising the quality and appearance of the building(s).

●**The consolidated and updated Corps-wide metric project list is now available on our Branch home page at *http://www.hq.usace.army.mil/cemp/e/ea/cemp_ea.htm*.**

● **For additional metric information, contact Ami Ghosh.**

Accessibility Issues

● On 9 July 1997, the U.S. Architectural and Barriers Compliance (Access) Board approved a final rule on accessible elements designed and constructed primarily for use by children. As the next step, the Access Board sent the proposed guidelines last month to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for review. OMB has up to 90 days to complete this review and request changes to the final rule. Following this effort, the Access Board will publish a notice of proposed rulemaking (NPRM) in the Federal Register. Once the NPRM has been published, the Access Board will invite public written comments on the proposed guidelines for a 90-day period.

Included in the proposed guidelines is the requirement that at least one of each type of ground level play component be accessible, which would require that clear space be provided next to play components to facilitate maneuvering and to allow room for a child to leave his or her assistive device to use the components if he or she could--and wished to--do so. A ground level component is defined as any activity that begins and ends on the ground level, e.g., a free-standing slide. Also included in the proposed guidelines is a requirement that there be some means to facilitate transfer onto equipment such as rockers or slides, and that there be an accessible route to the activity itself.

For elevated play components, which are those that are part of a composite structure, the guidelines propose a requirement for 50 percent of the total number to be accessible. Where 20 or more play components are elevated, a minimum of 25 percent of the total number of elevated components is recommended to be accessible by ramp and another 25 percent by transfer system or ramp. In composite structures with less than 20 elevated components, no ramp access would be required. On those structures, 50 percent of all elevated play components will be required to have access by transfer system. Traditionally, transfer systems are made up of a series of large steps that a child crawls up or "bumps up" backwards from a seated position.

Access to soft-contained play structures (frequently found in restaurants and retail settings) would be limited primarily to an accessible route to the entry points of the structure. Where a structure has one entry point, it must be accessible. Where there are two or more, two must be accessible.

One noted change between the approved final rule and the proposed final rule (published 22 July 1996) is that the final rule addresses *elements* designed primarily for use by children, whereas the proposed rule addressed *facilities* designed primarily for use by children. This change was made to clarify when and where the provisions of this rule apply. It also provides designers with greater flexibility in designing with children's sizes and capabilities in mind in facilities that are used by both children and adults. The final rule will allow exceptions for the mounting height of some elements (e.g., water closets, sinks, lavatories, or grab bars) that a designer may choose to provide at lower heights to accommodate children's needs.

The Board anticipates publishing the NPRM by the end of September 1997. The publication will be available free from the Access Board. If you're interested, call the Board's publications line now to be placed on a waiting list for the NPRM (publication #S-35) at (800) 872-2253 (select option 1). For TTY service, call (800) 993-2822. You may also obtain the document by e-mail request at *pubs@access-board.gov* and, when published, from the Access Board's

web site referenced at the at the back of this ***Gargoyle*** under *Important Web Sites*.

- **For additional information on accessible buildings and facilities, contact Rick Dahnke.**

Criteria Updates and Electronic Publishing

- ***ER 1110-345-700, Drawings, Design Analyses, and Specifications*****,** dated 30 May 1997 (consolidating and superseding ER 1110-345-700, 710, and 720), has been published and distributed in hard copy. The ER is also available on-line on TECHINFO. **Contact Dan Duncan or Rick Dahnke for more information.**

TM 5-803-11, AFJMAN 32-10139, *Children's Outdoor Play Areas*. This TM has been updated and published in May 1997 for use by the Army and Air Force. The manual establishes guidance for planning and designing unsupervised outdoor play areas to meet current child safety and child development requirements for family housing areas, community centers, and recreation areas on an installation or base.

Because of differing child safety and child development requirements, guidance is provided to meet the needs of three age groups: 6 weeks to 5 years; 5 to 9 years; and 9 to 15 years. The design guidance includes three types of play areas: play lots serving children ages 6 weeks to 5 years, or 5 to 9 years; neighborhood parks serving youth ages 9 to 15 years; and community parks serving all age groups.

A supervised play area differs from unsupervised play areas in a number of ways. Supervised play areas are supervised by trained recreation or child development staff; the play area is used to implement a program of developmental play activities; and daily safety inspections are performed. Supervised play areas provide opportunities to expand the play program to include activities that may be too risky or difficult to maintain in unsupervised play areas.

The play area planning and design process describes the formation of the play area committee. There is discussion concerning the needs analysis, site selection, site inventory and analysis, selection of play elements, and play element functional relationships. Child safety is described with diagrams for play elements. Play area surfacing is discussed in terms of both soft and hard surfaces. The use of plant materials and the need to monitor poisonous plants is also described.

- **Contact Ed Racht for more information.**

- **TM 5-663, *Child Development Center Play Area Inspection and Maintenance Program*.** This manual was published in March 1997 and provides child development center (CDC) staff, installation safety officers, and director of public works (DPW) engineer staff with the step-by-step guidance needed to establish a customized inspection and maintenance program for CDC outdoor play areas in compliance with U.S. Army Community and Family Support Center requirements. This program can be applied at new and existing outdoor play areas and will assist installation staff in identifying and correcting play area health and safety hazards before accidents occur or health is endangered. The manual is intended as a guide for improving child safety; detailed instructions are included for customizing the program to meet the specific needs of each installation. **For additional information, please contact Ed Racht.**

- **CEGS-10270, *Raised Floor Systems*.** This guide specification is undergoing a major change as part of the Criteria Document Update Program and the Notice Change Program. Critical information from TM 5-805-13, *Raised Floor System*, has been extracted and incorporated into the CEGS as notes to designers via the FY 97 Notice Program. The work is being performed in-house by CEHNC. Once the CEGS change has been completed, TM 5-805-13 will be canceled. **Contact Ami Ghosh for more information.**

- **Master Planning Instructions (MPI).** On 9 July 1997, a draft version of a new MPI was made available on the WWW for districts to review and comment on. In addition, CPW has been requested to disseminate the information through their newsletter so that installations might review and comment. This is only a preliminary draft and will require a lot of coordination prior to being finalized to replace the existing MPI. The draft is available at *http//: www.hq.usace.army.mil/cemp/e/ea/indx/mpdx.htm*. **Contact Murray Geyer for more information.**

- **Status of new DoD Instruction (DoDI), *Planning, Design, Engineering and Construction of Facilities*.** A final draft review meeting for the new DoDI that will replace MIL-HDBK 1190, *Facility Planning and Design Guide*, was held on 9 July 1997 at HQUSACE. Representatives from the Army, Air Force, Navy, and Marine Corps were in attendance. Approved comments have been incorporated, and the final draft was forwarded to NAVFAC on 1 August

1997 for final coordination and distribution to the Army, Air Force, Marine Corps, and Navy. Formal final submission of the DoDI to OSD for approval is scheduled for September 1997. **Contact Al Young for more information.**

The Modular Design System (MDS)

● **Automated Links of CADD Designs and Specifications.** MDS currently has an automated link of design drawings created in MDS and the respective project specifications. As a designer creates a design in MDS, a listing of associated specifications is automatically created and updated during the MDS design process. An enhancement to MDS is being initiated to advance the automated link of design drawing data and the project specifications in MDS. A meeting will be held next month to initiate the creation of an automated link in MDS to SPECSINTACT, which is the mandatory, state-of-the-art automated specification processing system for USACE in preparing project specifications and guide specifications. This MDS enhancement will provide MDS designers the ability to seamlessly and directly edit specifications (CEGS) which are already linked automatically to the design.

● **MDS Prospect Course.** The first MDS Designer PROSPECT Course using MDS Version 2.0 was held 14-18 July 1997 in Huntsville, AL. Fourteen of the 22 students were design teams from DPW staffs at Fort Dix and Fort McCoy who will be using MDS for planning and designing rehabilitation projects and other installation support projects. The remaining course students were from Louisville District who will be applying MDS Version 2.0 to a Fort Campbell barracks project.

● **Contact Dan Duncan for more information about MDS or the CEHNC Training Registrar, phone (205) 895-7420, for information about the MDS PROSPECT Course.**

Specification Actions

● **CEMP-E recently concurred with a recommendation from CECW-E to extend the charter of the *Civil Works Specifications Steering Committee* to include Military Programs** as a means of combining CEGS and CWGS into a single database of specifications to be maintained under a consolidated Notice Program. Another immediate goal of the expanded *Corps of Engineers Specification Steering Committee* will be to renumber the merged CEGS/CWGS in accordance with the latest edition of CSI's MasterFormat,® an action already underway in Military Programs for the CEGS and CEAGS. Rick Dahnke has been designated to represent the Directorate on the committee. Mr. Charles Baldi represents CECW, and there is one representative from each of the 8 MSC offices, 4 selected districts, and CEHNC.

● **Revised Numbering of Guide Specification Sections.** CEGS and CEAGS affected by this ongoing effort to conform to the new MasterFormat release are available on TECHINFO as the specifications are approved. CEGS/CEAGS are renumbered as required when the guides are updated.

● **After 1 October 1997, the CEGS and CWGS will be maintained in SPECSINTACT SGML format only.** Guide specifications in SPECSINTACT DOS format will continue to be available on TECHINFO during the period 1 October 1997 through 1 January 1998, but there will be no updates after 1 October 1997.

● **Plans to are underway to modify CEGS and the SPECSINTACT (SI) software** to allow "pre-tailoring" of CEGS to automatically generate either full "parent" editions of CEGS or smaller, "narrow scope" specification sections. This effort will result in the eventual elimination of the abridged guide specifications (CEAGS) and the need to maintain two separate spec databases.

An example of how the pre-tailoring option will work was described in the June 1997 ***Gargoyle***. We are currently testing this process on three CEGS that will generate a total of 12 narrow scope sections, as follows:

- CEGS-08210, Wood Doors, will produce narrow scope sections for wood Flush Doors, Paneled Doors, Louvered Doors, and Fire Doors.
- CEGS-15250, Thermal Insulation for Mechanical Systems, will produce narrow scope sections for Thermal Insulation for Pipe, Thermal Insulation for Duct, and Thermal Insulation for Mechanical Equipment.
- CEGS-16415, Electrical Work, Interior, will produce narrow scope sections for Electrical Work, Interior--Motors; Electrical Work, Interior--Lamps and Lighting; Electrical Work, Interior--Wiring; Electrical Work, Interior--Grounding; and Electrical Work, Interior--Transformers.

Currently, there are approximately 85 CEGS that are used to generate 65 CEAGS. Subject to the availability of funding, we anticipate adding the necessary coding to the 85 CEGS throughout FY 98 so that the CEAGS can be canceled by year-end, if not sooner.

- **SPECSINTACT (SI). The latest releases of *SI with SGML*, v2.2, and *WordSpec*, Beta v0.4,** were issued this month on **CCB, Volume 41,** and are available for downloading from the SI Home Page. The beta release of ***WordSpec*** for using SI with Microsoft Word requires that you have ***SI with SGML*** and Microsoft Word (either version 6, 7, or 8), as well as access to the SISGML CEGS database from either CCB or TECHINFO.

For help with installing or using SI, contact the User Support Desk, Kennedy Space Center (KSC), phone (407) 853-2291. For SI training opportunities, please contact either Charles Baldi, CECW-EP, phone (202) 761-8894, for on-site training, or the CEHNC Training Registrar, phone (205) 895-7420, for PROSPECT training under Course 185, Specification Writing for Construction Contracts**.**

- **Contact Rick Dahnke for more information on specifications issues.**

Important Web Sites

- **The CEMP-EA Branch Home Page** provides easy access to hot topics and guidance that the Branch is responsible for. We welcome your input to help us improve communication, share lessons-learned, and provide the information you need. **Send comments and suggestions to us directly from the Home Page at *http://www.hq.usace.army.mil/cemp/e/ea/cemp_ea.htm*.**

- **The Installation Support Home Page** provides topical guidance, the current list of USACE Design Champions for Installation Support (DCIS), and the AEI for Installation Support. **This site is located at *http://www.hq.usace.army.mil/ cemp/e/cemp-e.htm*.**

- **The USACE Publications Library** will eventually provide access to **all** official DA and USACE circulars, manuals, regulations, and other documents originating from HQUSACE and issued by the Directorate of Information Management. These publications are being uploaded as they are digitized and converted to PDF (Portable Document File) Format. This initiative is anticipated to be completed with all pubs on-line by the end of this fiscal year. **The library site is located at *http://www.usace.army.mil/inet/usace-docs/*.**

- **TECHINFO** is the official HQUSACE-sponsored site where CEGS, CEAGS, and CWGS are maintained and issued, along with approved Architectural and Engineering Instructions (AEI), Engineering Instructions (EI), Engineering Improvement Recommendation System (EIRS) Bulletins, and related support documents. **TECHINFO** also links to the USACE Publications Library for access to engineering, design, and construction DA and USACE publications. **This site is located at *http://www.hnd.usace.army.mil/techinfo/index.htm.***

- **The Construction Criteria Base (CCB),** maintained in CD-ROM and on-line formats by the National Institute of Building Sciences (NIBS), also contains all USACE engineering, design, and construction criteria, as well as related criteria issued by other military, Federal, and private sector organizations. In the near future, NIBS will link to TECHINFO to access our consolidated criteria database for distribution on CCB. This will ensure that we have the same guidance published on all of our distribution sources. **The Internet version of CCB is located at *http://www.nibs.org/ccb*.**

- **The U.S. Air Force Departmental Publications Library for official AF criteria is located at *http://129.198.24.125/baseinfo/afmenu/usafpubs.htm*.**

- **The SPECSINTACT (SI) Home Page,** maintained by the Kennedy Space Center (KSC), accepts user feedback and provides access to the latest software releases, software release notes, the on-line *User Guide*, lessons learned, and other current news. **The SI site is located at *http://si.ksc.nasa.gov/specsintact*.**

- **The Library of CADD Designs** is maintained by the Tri-Service CADD/GIS Technology Center at CEWES and contains CADD drawings for USACE projects, CADD details, and standard symbols available for viewing and downloading. **This site is located at *http://cadlib.wes.army.mil/cadlib.htm.***

- **Accessibility Publications.** Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) materials are on-line at ***http://www.usdoj.gov/crt/ada/publicat.htm*.**

● **The U.S. Architectural and Transportation Barriers Compliance Board (ATBCB) Home Page is located at *http://www.access-board.gov/*.** ATBCB has served the nation as the only independent Federal agency whose primary mission is accessibility for people with disabilities. This site provides current accessibility news updates, answers to frequently-asked questions, and required guidance.

● **The Government Printing Office (GPO) Access Home Page** provides access to several Federal publication databases such as the *Federal Register, Congressional Record, and Code of Federal Regulations*. **This site is located at *http://www.access.gpo.gov/su_docs/aces/aaces002.html.***

● **For more information, contact Rick Dahnke.**

Definitions

● **Definition for this Issue:** *SPECSINTACT*--an automated specification processing system that uses standard master guide specifications for the preparation of facility construction project specifications. The system is designed for use by engineers, architects, specification writers, project managers, and construction managers, and is mandated for use in the Corps for military and Civil Works construction by ER 1110-345-700 and ER 1110-2-1201.

● **Next Issue's Definition:** *TERREPLEIN*?

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